



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

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IDAHO FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

POSITION STATEMENT ON YELLOWSTONE GRIZZLY BEARS

Grizzly bears are found in four ecosystems that are partly within Idaho, the Selkirk, Cabinet-Yaak, Bitterroot, and the Yellowstone.

In 1975, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the grizzly bear in the lower 48 states as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act.

In March 2007, grizzlies in the Yellowstone ecosystem were removed from the endangered species list. On September 21, 2009, the Federal District Court in Missoula ordered the Yellowstone grizzly bear population relisted as a threatened population under the Endangered Species Act. All grizzly bears are currently under federal protection in Idaho.

The Idaho Fish and Game Commission fully support the State of Idaho Yellowstone Grizzly Bear Management Plan and delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population. Yellowstone grizzlies are a recovered population and have thrived under responsive cooperative management. Future grizzly bear conservation is best served with a return to state management and the local, state, tribal, and federal partnerships that fostered recovery. The Commission encourages the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to aggressively defend delisting through appeal.

Yellowstone grizzly bears are now occupying areas outside the Primary Conservation Area and continued public support for Yellowstone grizzly bears will hinge on successful conflict management. The Commission is concerned that any delay in the return of management authority back to the states and/or increased federal actions that limit or restrict Idaho sportsmen, livestock owners, and the general public will further erode support for grizzly bears. The Commission advocates the take of nuisance bears outside the Primary Conservation Area in Idaho not count against mortality thresholds established in the Conservation Strategy.

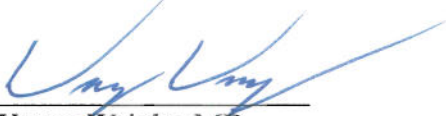

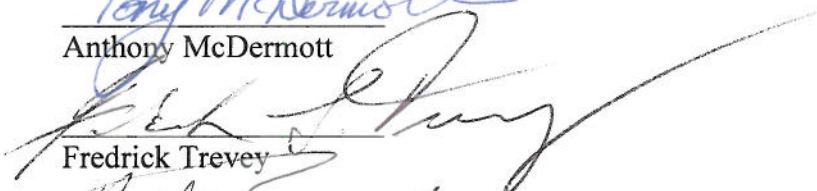
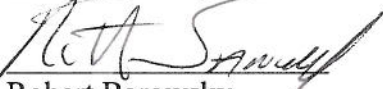
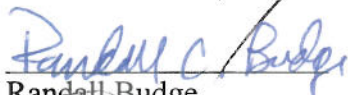
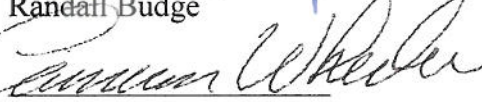
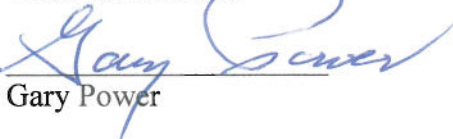
The Idaho Fish and Game Commission opposes all translocations of Yellowstone grizzly bears from inside the Primary Conservation Area to locations outside the Primary Conservation Area in Idaho. The Commission also opposes translocations of Yellowstone grizzly bears already outside the Primary Conservation area to locations which would further expand the range of the bear in Idaho. The Commission does not support actions

that curtail or limit hunting opportunities outside the Primary Conservation Area to enhance the expansion of grizzly bear populations.

The Commission continues to support efforts to minimize conflicts between grizzly bears and humans and grizzly bears and livestock and monitoring the Yellowstone grizzly bear population and habitat. The Commission supports bear management actions which address public safety. The Commission recognizes the necessity to limit human related grizzly bear mortalities resultant from conflicts in order to maintain a recovered status within the Primary Conservation Area. Further, the Commission strongly maintains the State of Idaho's individual wildlife management authority for the amount and distribution of hunter harvest.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE IDAHO FISH AND GAME COMMISSION
ON November 18, 2010

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